TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 13, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 8 totaled an estimated 17.1 billion ton-miles, 2.4 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 49 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 870.2 billion ton-miles, 10.7 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 8 totaled 379,297, down 3.7 percent from last year, and 2.4 percent below the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.6 percent in the East, 1.2 percent in the South, and 0.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 16 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, loadings of motor vehicles and equipment showed a gain of 2,028 cars (9.7 percent). Seventeen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 1 totaled 55,143 cars, up 12.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 90,931 trailers and/or containers, 4.1 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 2,485,050 cars, 14.7 percent higher than last year, and 4,235,777 trailers and/or containers, up 12.4 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/08/84:

	Loadings in Week ended Dec. 8, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,861	D	2,419	7.7	D	1,374	4.8
Other farm products	4,840	I	351	7.8	D	686	14.2
Metallic ores	12,761	D	1,525	10.7	D	1,341	10.5
Coal	106,580	D	4,759	4.3	I	3,435	3.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,288	I	96	0.9	D	1,096	10.7
Nonmetallic minerals	10,432	D	1,203	10.3	D	2,852	27.3
Grain mill products	10,901	D	623	5.4	I	254	2.3
Food and kindred products	11,377	D	478	4.0	D	424	3.7
Primary forest products	12,559	D	2,036	13.9	D	1,315	10.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,974	I	4	0.1	D	344	4.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,898	D	414	2.7	D	1,530	10.3
Chemicals and allied products	23,394	D	73	0.3	D	1,621	6.9
Petroleum products	4,878	D	13	0.3	D	284	5.8
Stone, clay and glass products	10,035	D	367	3.5	D	973	9.7
Coke	4,092	D	1,547	27.4	D	940	23.0
Metals and products	7,482	D	1,494	16.6	D	900	12.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,844	I	2,028	9.7	I	526	2.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,290	D	1,204	12.7	D	606	7.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,458	D	1,400	15.8	D	200	2.7
All other carloads	60,180	I	2,611	4.5	I	3,057	5.1
LCL traffic	173	D	93	35.0	D	11	6.4
Total Cars Loaded	379,297	D	14,558	3.7	D	9,225	2.4
Corresponding week of 1983	393,855						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	19,249,682	17,877,540	I 7.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
48 weeks ended December 1	853.1	768.8	I 11.0
Week ended December 8	17.1	17.5	D 2.4
49 weeks cumulative	870.2	786.3	I 10.7

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